

EXHIBIT P

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS
EASTERN DIVISION

JAMES JIRAK and ROBERT)	
PEDERSEN,)	
)	
Plaintiffs,)	No. 07 C 3626
)	
v.)	Judge Castillo
)	
ABBOTT LABORATORIES INC,)	Magistrate Judge
)	Keys
)	
Defendant.)	

VIDEO DEPOSITION OF MS. AMBER MUNSON

Taken on behalf of the Defendant

August 28, 2009

1 promised -- we were the first time Abbott had ever
2 laid off a group of people.

3 We were always told that Abbott didn't do
4 that type of stuff, and that it was very family
5 oriented, and that they would always find room and
6 find places for people. But it just didn't happen.

7 And so to finish answering your question,
8 when I left Abbott, I decided to take some time off.
9 I had worked since I got out of college and decided
10 to do some traveling.

11 And really didn't have a desire to get back
12 into pharmaceuticals based on the fact that I just
13 knew it wasn't as rewarding as what I had done when
14 I was in telecom.

15 And the only problem is, is being in
16 Joplin, Missouri. There's not a whole lot of great
17 jobs here in Joplin, Missouri.

18 And then PDI presented itself, and it was a
19 position that I decided that I would take to tide me
20 over until I find something else.

21 Q. When you say that you didn't think
22 pharmaceutical sales was as rewarding as telecom --

23 A. Mm-hmm.

24 Q. -- can you explain that a little bit
25 more?

1 A. I believe that, you know, at the end of
2 the day -- when I was with Sprint and with McLeod, I
3 went home at the end of the day and knew that I had
4 accomplished something.

5 I was able to see the numbers. It was
6 tangible. And you don't get that in
7 pharmaceuticals.

8 Q. You mean numbers in terms of your --

9 A. Your sales.

10 Q. -- your sales?

11 A. Mm-hmm.

12 Q. Doesn't Abbott generate reports showing
13 your sales performance?

14 A. In the pharmaceutical industry, numbers
15 don't come out for months later after the fact.

16 Q. I see.

17 A. And it makes it very difficult as a
18 true professional to be able to adjust your
19 behaviors in order to be where you need to be when
20 they come back and give you numbers from three or
21 four months ago and say, "Well, here's your numbers.
22 You know, they need to be better for next month."

23 You know, I mean you can't do anything now.
24 That's four months ago.

25 Q. Right.

1 A. So it's retroactive.

2 Q. But is that an industry-wide problem in
3 your opinion or is it just Abbott?

4 A. Oh, no, it's industry-wide.

5 Q. So with telecom, were you able to see
6 your performance on a daily basis?

7 A. Oh, absolutely.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. You knew -- I mean at the end of the
10 day, you knew which accounts you'd closed.

11 You know, you can track what stage you were
12 in. And when they said that they were going to sell
13 your phones, you knew they were going to sell your
14 phones.

15 Whereas with physicians, physicians will
16 look at you and say, "Yeah, sure I'm writing it."
17 You know, and then there's the secret life of the
18 reports that we get that, you know, we're not
19 supposed to discuss with physicians that show us
20 what they're writing.

21 And you know, even if they are writing it,
22 especially in this neck of the woods, it makes it a
23 lot harder because there's a lot of companies that
24 don't report their sales.

25 So I can have doctors writing my drugs.

1 But you know, being in Joplin, we've got all these
2 Wal-Marts in the area, and I don't get paid for any
3 of those scripts that are written.

4 Q. So Wal-Mart is one of those pharmacies
5 that doesn't report?

6 A. That's correct.

7 Q. So do you get any other reports besides
8 the numbers that you would see every couple of
9 months? I mean are there weekly prescription data
10 reports?

11 A. There are. And I believe that it
12 depends on who your manager is when those are shared
13 and when they're not, which also makes the industry
14 very hard.

15 Because there are some managers that will
16 share that information with their reps, and there's
17 others that won't.

18 But a lot of the times those numbers come
19 from the 30,000 up, you know, view so that they
20 don't really trickle down to your exact areas.

21 Which, you know, they're supposed to be
22 like pep-me-up talks like, "We're doing a great
23 job," or, "Things aren't working out."

24 But no, it's -- it's definitely something
25 that's pharmaceutical-wide.

1 Q. So as far as your personal experience,
2 did your manager share reports with you on a more
3 frequent basis than once every couple of months?

4 A. Oh, my manager? He was very good at
5 giving us numbers. He was very good at giving us
6 numbers.

7 Q. How often would you receive numbers?

8 A. Oh, I would say -- it's been many years
9 ago, but I would say on a very regular basis.

10 Q. Like weekly or monthly or --

11 A. Well, weekly. Weekly, maybe biweekly.
12 We always had a pretty -- a pretty good grasp on
13 where things were going.

14 Q. So did that help you feel like you had
15 a better understanding of what your numbers were if
16 you were receiving reports on a weekly or biweekly
17 basis?

18 A. I wouldn't say that it really was able
19 to give you a grasp of how successful you were doing
20 your job. It was just a matter of luck of the draw
21 of whether or not the prescriptions that were being
22 written were going to the right pharmacies.

23 Q. So luck of the draw in the sense that
24 if the prescriptions went to a pharmacy that
25 reported, then your numbers would be better than if

1 the field to, you know, produce it and see how it
2 should be done.

3 Well, when I was with National Car Rental,
4 I had come from the corporate world, and I had gone
5 out into management. And I was working at the
6 Minneapolis location, and I wanted it all to be
7 corrected, in my corporate mentality, to be fixed
8 right away.

9 So I went into National Car Rental. And I
10 was pulled in and was told I got elected -- I mean I
11 don't know if it so much was disciplined as much as
12 I think it was constructive criticism that was much
13 appreciated, when I was told that Rome wasn't built
14 in a day.

15 That you can't just come in here and expect
16 to take all 75 of these people and do -- you know,
17 tell them that they need to change their ways.

18 I had that happen at National Car Rental.
19 And then at Sprint I never had anything that I can
20 think of. McLeod, everything was good.

21 I know at Abbott there were a few times
22 that I was put on a PIP, a performance improvement
23 plan, because numbers weren't where they needed to
24 be.

25 Q. Mm-hmm.

1 A. But that goes back to the reporting
2 issue. And as pharmaceutical sales representatives,
3 we know that it's just a matter of reporting.

4 You know, they control which doctors we
5 call on, you know. And when they tell me I can only
6 call on this doctor but yet I know this doctor over
7 here is writing my drugs, but I don't have the
8 ability to put that doctor on there to get credit
9 for those scripts -- you know, for talking to that
10 physician.

11 It's really nothing that's within your
12 control.

13 Q. Okay. So we'll get into more specific
14 Abbott stuff in a little bit. I just want to ask
15 you one question.

16 MS. OSE: This will be Exhibit 2.

17 (Exhibit 2, Employment
18 Application of Amber
19 Lofton to Abbott
20 Laboratories; Request
21 Number 96598;
22 ABBOTT0066495 -
23 ABBOTT0066498, was marked
24 for identification by the
25 court reporter.)

1 this goes back to the corporate management side of
2 things, is when you've got 10 different -- or 20
3 different reps, and you've got 10 of them on one
4 side and 10 on the other, you get to hear how 10 --
5 I mean 10 people might verb -- the verbiage they
6 might use.

7 Q. Mm-hmm.

8 A. So you might learn something as one of
9 those people go through. You know, they might use a
10 different, you know, analogy or might use an example
11 or the way they open it or close it.

12 It was just so you could get practice.

13 Q. I see. And you could see different --

14 A. Right.

15 Q. -- styles and --

16 A. Mm-hmm.

17 Q. Did you learn -- did you have classes
18 or training on selling skills?

19 A. There were some. There were some.

20 But I -- I mean they would -- it was not so
21 much selling, because in the true sale, I believe
22 you -- I don't think you can really teach somebody
23 to be a salesperson. I mean they've either got to
24 have it in them or they don't.

25 But it wasn't something that we ever sat in

1 class and were told, "This is how you need to, you
2 know, have the -- have the contract signed." This
3 isn't, you know --

4 Q. Mm-hmm.

5 A. It wasn't something like, "This is
6 what's required in order for you to get paid." It
7 was just more the marketing message.

8 Q. Did they ever teach you things about
9 like personality types of doctors and how to most
10 effectively communicate with certain types of
11 people?

12 A. I think we took one class like that or
13 one afternoon might have been something similar to
14 that.

15 The one thing that sticks out the most in
16 my mind from training is when they once said, "You
17 know, you can't ever take anything personally with a
18 physician because you don't know what he just said
19 to that patient when he walked out of the room."

20 You know, if he just told somebody that he
21 died or they're dying and then he comes out in the
22 hallway and says something to you, you know, don't
23 take it personally.

24 Which I kind of already knew that coming
25 from telecom. I had lots of people that would say,

1 Q. Oh, I'm sorry. Go ahead.

2 A. I just wanted to clarify that this did
3 not come from my original training --

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. -- from when I -- because I did not
6 have TriCor when I first started.

7 Q. But it is --

8 A. But this is very similar. This is the
9 kind of marketing materials that we would be given
10 to learn what we were supposed to say to the
11 physicians. Would you like a copy?

12 MR. LIANG: (Indicating.)

13 MS. OSE:

14 Q. So I've never seen one of these before,
15 so you might have to explain to me how you would use
16 this in your training to kind of learn about the
17 product.

18 A. Well --

19 Q. What are -- what are TriCor discovery
20 questions?

21 A. This marketing material is something
22 that we received when we had TriCor. Probably -- I
23 don't know if we got it in the mail or if it was
24 something we got at out of our POA meetings, when we
25 -- one of our national meetings.

1 But basically they tell you what questions
2 you should ask. These are the questions you can
3 ask. I mean they're like the awareness of the
4 knowledge.

5 You know, "Doctor, what criteria are most
6 important to you when evaluating lipid therapy?"
7 Or, "Doctor, how are you currently treating your
8 dyslipidic patients with LDLs between 100 and 129?"

9 You know, and then you try to get them to
10 the next step. Because they wanted you to obviously
11 gauge the doctor to see what stage they were -- they
12 were in the prescribing process.

13 And then these different questions would
14 come into play as to where they were. And they
15 based -- and we -- and I don't think I saw numbers
16 in here anywhere.

17 But I remember once we had a chart that
18 they showed us that if a doctor was writing between
19 zero and five, he might have been at an awareness.

20 Or there's like zero -- yeah, like zero to
21 five scripts a month, he might have been at
22 awareness. 5 to 15, he might have been
23 limited trial.

24 They had a chart that showed us exactly
25 where they fell. And based on where they fell,

1 these were the questions we were supposed to ask
2 them.

3 Q. Okay. I see. So how did you know what
4 stage the doctor was at so that you could figure out
5 which of these questions to ask?

6 A. The numbers that they would send to us,
7 the reporting that they had.

8 Q. So like prescription data?

9 A. Prescription data, right.

10 Q. So you would receive the prescription
11 data, and then you would try to figure out what
12 stage the doctor was in.

13 And then with regard to these questions, I
14 mean what was the expectation? Was the expectation
15 that you ask these questions verbatim during your
16 sales calls?

17 A. Mm-hmm. That's what the -- that's what
18 the grinders were for and what the role plays were
19 for. You would -- I mean -- and I shouldn't say,
20 you know, word by word.

21 Q. Mm-hmm.

22 A. You didn't get counted off if you
23 didn't use the exact same words that are written
24 here. But it would give you, "This is what you're
25 supposed to detail."

1 And then a lot of times -- and I don't know
2 -- well, here -- there might be some different
3 flashcards in here that might say, you know, "This
4 -- if the doctor says this, then this is where in
5 the sales piece you need to go to respond to that."

6 So if the doctor says, "I'm writing this
7 against this drug or this is the drug that I write
8 and this is why," then we would have training
9 materials that would say, "Well, then you need to go
10 to page 5 and show them this chart right here."

11 Q. Okay. So it was sort of a flow chart?

12 A. An algorithm basically.

13 Q. Algorithm?

14 A. Depending on where they fall, this is
15 what you're supposed to do.

16 Q. So what would happen if you asked the
17 doctor a question that wasn't on this training
18 material?

19 A. Are you referring --

20 MR. LIANG: I'm going to object. That
21 assumes facts not in evidence.

22 MS. OSE:

23 Q. Go ahead and answer.

24 A. Are you referring to as in if I asked
25 a doctor this question when I was doing a grinder

1 expanding was probably just some verbiage that I had
2 used in something else or I probably saw, you know,
3 on another resumé somewhere.

4 But I mean you do create relationships. I
5 mean it is getting in and going through that
6 gatekeeper and getting to know those physicians.

7 And I mean you do. You call on the same
8 doctors for a while. You maintain it, and you try
9 to expand the numbers and the sales and, you know,
10 doctors knowing about your products through
11 educating them.

12 That's what we did. We educated them and
13 marketed to them versus closing them. I mean
14 there's not a real close.

15 Q. How is -- I mean we talked about a
16 close a little bit earlier this morning. So I guess
17 I'm trying to understand why that's not a real
18 close.

19 A. Well, because a real close in any real
20 sales job -- it goes back to that car analogy,
21 where when somebody buys a car, they sign on that
22 dotted line, and that guy knows he's getting paid
23 for that.

24 Whereas in pharmaceuticals, you don't ever
25 get that. You don't ever get that. In

1 pharmaceuticals you don't.

2 Now if you're in diagnostics or devices,
3 you do, because you actually see the products that
4 they're using, and you bill them for it.

5 But in pharmaceuticals it doesn't happen.
6 I mean we're -- we're basically like programmed
7 robots. I mean we're trained to go out and give the
8 message that is presented to us.

9 I mean this is the verbiage we use. And
10 you know, it's embedded in your head that this is
11 what is important to these doctors, and this is what
12 you need to sell to them.

13 But yet any doctor will tell you that he's
14 writing it, but then the numbers come back and
15 they're not. But are they?

16 You know, a great example would be -- and I
17 know this isn't Abbott. But recently at Pfizer they
18 sent out two different reports. There was a 20
19 percent discrepancy in the number of scripts that
20 were written. One report said they were writing 20
21 percent more than the other one did.

22 Nobody will ever give you any answers as to
23 what that is. So I don't -- I mean that's not a
24 true sales job to me.

25 Q. So explain to me then what it is that

1 results."

2 So and then he counsels you to improve in
3 two categories: territory analysis and business
4 planning, and execution and implementation.

5 Did you talk about this letter with
6 Mr. Gray at any point?

7 A. Yeah, I did. And if I remember
8 correctly, there is an email that I have in here
9 where he addressed this with Jeff Link.

10 Q. And Jeff Link is?

11 A. The regional manager.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. I thought there was one in here. He
14 addressed it with Jeff Link, because I had not been
15 in the territory that long and the territory had
16 been vacant --

17 Q. Okay.

18 A. -- when I came into it. And he
19 addressed it with Jeff link that he did not feel
20 that it was fair that I received this letter based
21 off of it. But let me see.

22 Q. Do you remember how long you had been
23 in the territory?

24 A. It had been vacant for like I want to
25 say four or five months. There was a gentleman by

1 the name of Terry Kohl that they let him go too
2 because of -- I mean because of the numbers.

3 Q. Mm-hmm.

4 A. And when I walked into the bad
5 territory, I mean it was -- it was not a good
6 territory. I mean it wasn't ranked very high.

7 It all depends on your managed care
8 coverage. When you get ranked -- when it comes to
9 rankings, they rank you with everyone else in the
10 country.

11 And if your drug isn't on formulary like
12 Medicaid or Blue Cross/Blue Shield, if you're not
13 ranked -- if you're not on first or second tier here
14 but yet somebody in Las Vegas has coverage and
15 they're covered on all the plans, and if they can
16 get -- you know, Medicaid people can get your drug
17 for 50 cents or \$2, well, obviously they're going to
18 sell a lot more scripts in Vegas than you are in
19 Missouri.

20 And so numbers -- it's a number game. I
21 mean it really is. I mean I think if you go back
22 and look at other sales performance and look at
23 reviews that, you know, from the ride-alongs that
24 say, "You know, you're doing an excellent job of
25 your organization and stuff," this here is just

1 basically a generic letter.

2 Q. Do the doctors always know what's on
3 formulary and what's not?

4 A. No. That's what -- that's what we're
5 there for. That's what we're supposed to tell them.
6 That's why they give us materials and stickers and
7 stuff to put on drugs when we go out in the field.

8 Q. So I guess my question is, if you
9 write a prescription for a drug that's not on
10 formulary, and the doctor doesn't know that it's not
11 on formulary, he's going to write the product
12 anyway?

13 A. But then when they go to the
14 pharmacist --

15 Q. Does the pharmacist switch it out?

16 A. -- the pharmacist switches it out.

17 Q. And that's why you would call the
18 pharmacies and tell them not to?

19 A. Right. You would ask them not to. But
20 the majority of people -- I mean anyone that's, you
21 know, going to write a higher tier drug, unless the
22 doctor is really educated and willing to take the
23 time, which most of them aren't, it's going to get
24 switched at the pharmacy anyhow.

25 Q. So let's just talk about this letter

1 MS. OSE:

2 Q. All right. And are you familiar with
3 this document?

4 A. Yep. Basically the same thing as the
5 other one, just a different format.

6 Q. Okay. So this is a performance review
7 from the year 2004. Let's look at, "Selling the
8 customers, partially achieved expectations."

9 A. You know what? Can you repeat that
10 again.

11 Q. Sure. Selling to customers, for which
12 you received a score of partially achieved
13 expectations.

14 A. Mm-hmm.

15 Q. This third bullet point down, it says,
16 "Monthly Mobic total prescriptions declined subtly
17 January through August. Average 86 per month down
18 from January baseline."

19 You might not remember, but was there some
20 sort of formulary position change during that time?

21 A. No, I don't -- I don't know exactly
22 what the difference was.

23 Q. Okay. So you don't --

24 A. I would have to -- I would have to see
25 a full analysis of the market. I don't know if

1 my -- see, the thing is, is that they don't take
2 into consideration a lot of times -- and I don't
3 know if this is the case.

4 But a lot of times you might have a
5 physician that was a high writer that might have
6 left your area. You know, he might move to another
7 state.

8 And then you're no longer -- you don't have
9 that target in your territory anymore, and you don't
10 have the freedom to go out and pick other targets to
11 replace him with that might be able to write those
12 scripts for you. You just have to use what's on
13 your call plan to pull those numbers from.

14 Another thing that sometimes happens is the
15 realignment. You know, if you get new targets that
16 -- you know, a new area.

17 Or -- I don't think -- I don't think Mobic
18 had gone generic then, but that is very possible
19 that it had gone generic.

20 But I think that was too far back. I don't
21 think it went generic till like '07, '06. No. Was
22 this -- this was '06. No, it was '05.

23 Q. No, this was performance year '04.

24 A. Okay. Yeah, so it wasn't generic yet.
25 Which is amazing because the Mobic is what I -- I